



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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Date:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arizona Department of Public Safety, Seizes Illicit Drugs, U.S. Currency and Vehicles from Traffic Stops and Investigations

From May 15, 2006 to May 23, 2006, Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers seized the following illicit drugs, transport vehicles and residence:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Value</u>
Crystal Methamphetamine	15 pounds	Street Value: \$80,000
Cocaine	33 Grams	Street Value: \$ 1,000
Marijuana (processed)	363 pounds	Street Value \$360,000
Marijuana Plants	30	Street Value: Undetermined
Cash		\$27,424
Vehicles	6	
Residences	1	

Scenarios surrounding the seizures:

On Monday, May 15, 2006, around 12:10 pm, a DPS Officer made a traffic stop on U.S. Highway 95 at Milepost 51.8, near the U.S. Border Patrol Check Point. U.S. Border Patrol Agents assisted with the use of one of their Canines, who alerted to the front and rear bumpers of the vehicle. A search of vehicle was conducted which revealed 12 packages of Marijuana hidden in both front and rear fender sections. The total weight of the Marijuana was approximately 33 pounds. The driver was arrested, the Marijuana and vehicle were seized.

On Tuesday, May 16, 2006, around 4:15 pm, a DPS Officer and Canine made a traffic stop on Interstate 10 at Milepost 227 Westbound. The Canine alerted to the interior of the vehicle. A search was conducted which revealed 7 pounds of Crystal Methamphetamine located inside the lining of a jacket. The driver was arrested, the Crystal Methamphetamine and the vehicle were seized.

On Wednesday, May 17, 2006, around 1:49 pm, a DPS Officer made a traffic stop on Interstate 10 at Milepost 213. As a result of conversation with the driver and visual observations made by the Officer, led to a search being conducted of the vehicle which revealed 8 pounds Crystal Methamphetamine located within four fire extinguishers which were found in a non-factory made compartment of the vehicle. The driver was arrested, the Crystal Methamphetamine and vehicle were seized.

On Thursday, May 18, 2006, DPS Detectives from the Major Violators Unit were conducting an investigation where one suspect wanted on Felony Drug Charges out of Arkansas was initially arrested. The unit was assisted by Tucson Police Department and Pima County Sheriffs Department. As a result of information obtained and the arrest, a Search Warrant was obtained for a residence in the Tucson area. Execution of the Search Warrant revealed an indoor growing operation, which 30 Marijuana Plants were discovered along with extensive equipment used in the growing process of the plants. In addition, the residence was used for the housing and training of attack dogs. There were a total of 11 dogs, which were turned over to Pima County Animal Control.

On Friday, May 19, 2006, around 1:20 pm, two DPS Officers and Canine made two traffic stops on Interstate 40 at Milepost 207 and at Milepost 220 Eastbound. The Canine alerted to the rear of the first vehicle stopped and a search was conducted which revealed 57 pounds of Marijuana located in the trunk. The second vehicle was initially observed following the first and through investigation it was determined they were traveling together. The two drivers were arrested, both of the vehicles were from a rental car company and not seized.

On Sunday, May 21, 2006, around 12:47 am, a DPS Officer and Canine made a traffic stop on Interstate 10 at Milepost 19. The Canine alerted to the interior of vehicle, a search was conducted and revealed 33 Grams of Cocaine, undetermined amount of U.S. Currency and two bottles of suspected Methamphetamine Oil. The driver was arrested and the vehicle was seized.

On Sunday, May 21, 2006, around 11:11 am, a DPS Officer made a traffic stop on Interstate 10 Business Loop, Milepost 19. As a result of the conversation with the driver and other observations made by the Officer, a search was conducted of the vehicle which revealed 3.5 pounds of Marijuana, cash in the amount of \$27,424, a scale and packaging materials located in the trunk. The driver was arrested, the vehicle was from a rental car company and not seized.

On Monday, May 22, 2006, around 3:25 pm, a DPS Officer made a traffic stop on Interstate 17 at Milepost 265. As a result of conversation with the driver and other observations of the Officer, a search was conducted of the vehicle revealed 270 pounds of Marijuana located inside. The driver was arrested, the Marijuana and vehicle were seized.